

# CITY COUNCIL REPORT



MEETING DATE: April 5, 2004

ITEM No. \_\_\_\_\_ GOAL: Coordinate Planning to Balance Infrastructure

**SUBJECT**                      **Scenic Roadway Designations General Plan Amendment (1-GP-2004)**

**REQUEST**                      Request to initiate a General Plan amendment to the Open Space and Recreation Element and the Character and Design Element regarding Scenic Corridor and Buffered Setback/Parkway designations.

**Key Items for Consideration:**

- Scenic Corridor Guidelines were adopted by the Development Review Board in February 2003. The guidelines are not currently referenced in the City of Scottsdale General Plan 2001.
- Interest has been expressed in classifying additional roadways as Scenic Corridors.

**APPLICANT CONTACT**      Teresa Huish  
City of Scottsdale  
480-312-7829

**LOCATION**                      Citywide

**BACKGROUND**                      **History.**  
The Scenic Corridor and Buffered Setbacks designations have been a part of the General Plan since the Northeast Area Plan (1976) when the Shea Boulevard Scenic Parkway was designated. In the 1981 Environmental Design Element – Streetscape Plan two major streets (Shea Boulevard and Scottsdale Road north of the CAP) were shown as Scenic Corridors. Additional roads (Hayden, Frank Lloyd Wright, Via Linda, and Pima) were shown as roads with Major Buffers. With the adoption of the Scottsdale Foothills General Plan (1984) and the Tonto Foothills General Plan (1986) for newly annexed areas of the city, additional roadways were designated Scenic Corridors: Pima Road (north of the 101 Freeway), Dynamite Boulevard, Carefree Highway, and Cave Creek Road; and Major Buffers: Lone Mountain east of Pima, Desert Mountain Parkway, and Happy Valley Road. With the update of the Environmental Design Element in 1992, the Scenic Corridor and Buffered Setback/Parkway (Major Buffers) designation was moved to the Open Space Plan. No additional Scenic Corridors or Buffered Setbacks/Parkways were included in this update or the 2001 update.

Throughout 2002-2003 Scenic Corridor Design Guidelines were developed and taken through a public process and hearing with the Development Review Board for adoption. These guidelines clearly identify the setbacks and design elements for Scenic Corridors. Additional streetscape guidelines have been established and adopted by the City Council for Shea Boulevard, Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard, and Via Linda.

The Streets Master Plan was adopted by the City Council in Fall 2003 and includes street classifications and cross-sections.

Interest has been expressed to expand the application of a Scenic Corridor designation to other roadways in the city. This General Plan amendment will examine the various classifications for scenic or buffered roadways, determine the applicability of these various designations to roadways in Scottsdale, and also define guidelines for the scenic or buffered roadways similar to the Scenic Corridor Design Guidelines.

APPLICANT'S  
PROPOSAL

- Amend the text of the General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element and the Character and Design Element to include by reference the Scenic Corridor Guidelines (Feb. 2003).
- Examine the applicability of, and make recommendations for, applying the Scenic Corridor designation to other roadways in Scottsdale.
- Expand the definition of other scenic and buffered roadway designations mentioned in the General Plan Open Space Element to provide the same level of detail as the Scenic Corridor Guidelines.

STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION

**Recommended Approach:**  
Staff recommends the initiation.

RESPONSIBLE  
DEPT(S)

**Planning and Development Services Department**  
Planning and Design Services/Current Planning Services

STAFF CONTACT(S)

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APPROVED BY

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Randy Grant  
Chief Planning Officer

Date

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Ed Gawf  
Deputy City Manager

Date